

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 11. Claims 2 and 14 have been canceled. Claims 1, 3-13 and 15-20 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 11 are independent claims.

In the recent Office Action the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 11-12 and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swanda (U.S. 5,174,034) in view of Gibbs et al. (U.S. 5,806,196). Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 11-12 and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gibbs et al. (U.S. 5,806,196) in view of Turner (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0066198). The indication by the Examiner that Claims 2, 4, 8-10, 13, 14 and 18-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and of any intervening claims is noted with appreciation.

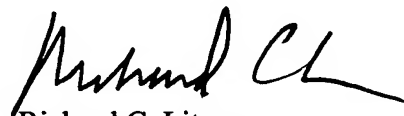
Applicant has amended independent Claims 1 and 11 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claims 2 and 14, respectively, and has canceled claims 2 and 14. Applicant respectfully submits that for at least these reasons, amended independent Claims 1 and 11 and their corresponding dependent Claims, are allowable over the prior art applied of record.

Application No. : 10/807,448
Art Unit : 2859

Attorney Docket No. 20804.05
Confirmation No. 3355

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard C. Litman", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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RCL:dht/rwg